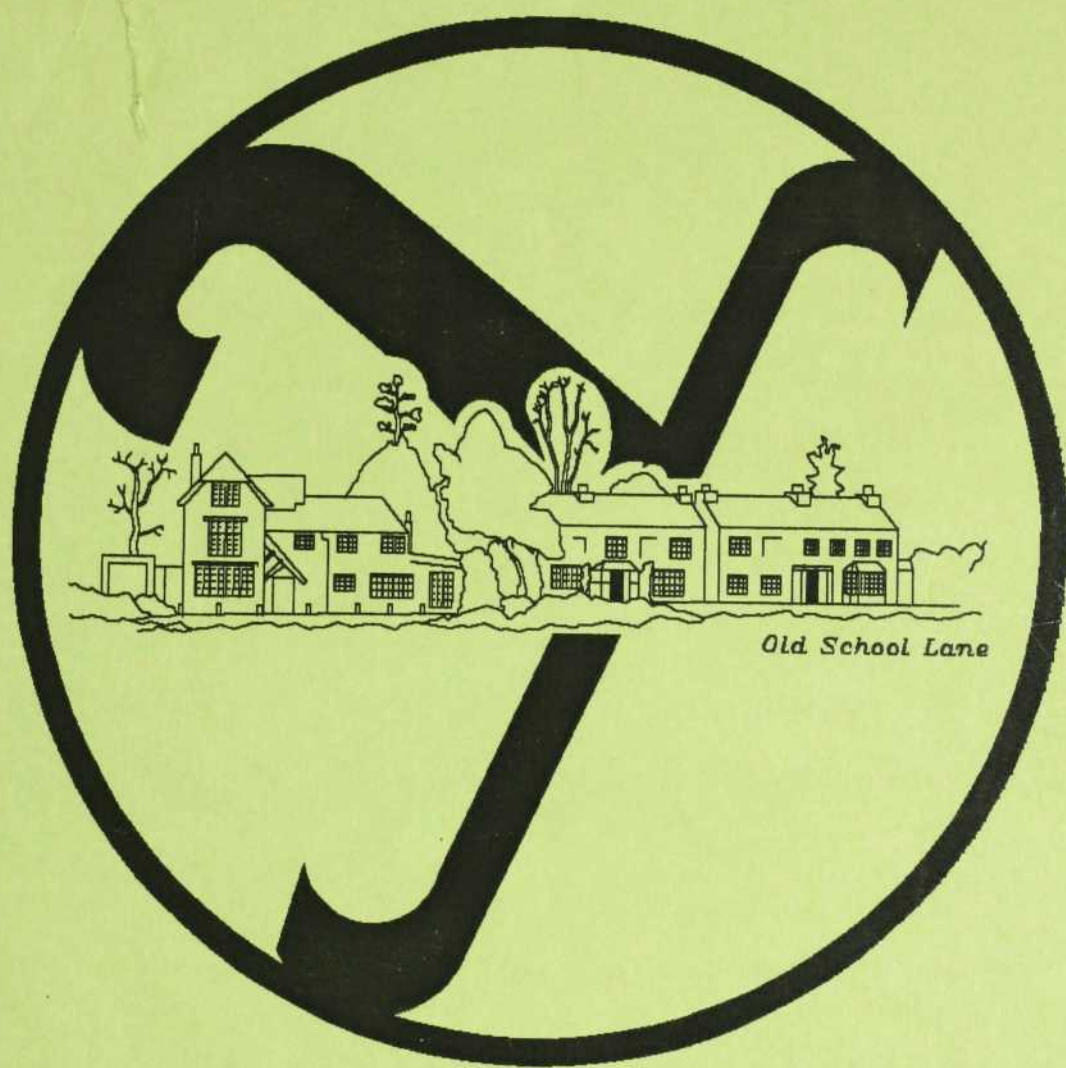


No. 51

December 1992



The
Yateley Society
Newsletter

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- THE YATELEY SOCIETY -

Newsletter No. 51

DECEMBER 1992

Editor: Tony Hocking, 30 Connaught Close Yateley (0252) 875158

THE EDITORIAL.

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TO ALL OF YOU!

----ooOoo----

At this time of the year there is one thing you must remember -

**** THE INFORMAL CHRISTMAS SOCIAL ****

This is being held on Thursday 10th December, in the Yateley Centre Green Room at 8:00pm.

Wine (and soft drink) will be provided, as will friendly conversation and a "Christmas Cryptic Quiz" to test your knowledge of Yateley.

Please bring a few mince pies, or something similar, with you to improve the occasion.

There will be no charge, but donations to offset expenses are always welcome.

(Thinks - I must refurbish the Christmas banner!)

See you there!

----ooOoo----

You will notice that I and my correspondents are resting on our laurels somewhat after the 50th issue effort, but although thin this issue has some substance! Please see the article about the semi-social on the Common, and remember to look at the Programme Page - you don't want to miss anything. If you missed the talk by Christabel King, Valerie has written it up for us.

----ooOoo----

Finally, another reminder about the AGM.
It is on Thursday 28th of January, in the Yateley Centre Green Room, at 8:00pm.

Your support for the business of the Society is very important, and so are your views on our activities - please come along!

1878 IN YATELEY

by Valerie Kerslake

That is the subject of our 1993 exhibition, to be used at the May Fayre and elsewhere.

1878 was chosen partly because in that year the church was re-opened after extensive restoration work and the first Parish Magazine was published. It is also one of the three and a half years covered in the diaries of John Mills who retired to Yateley in 1876. There is a great deal of other material available which will contribute to a picture of Yateley 115 years ago, and the exhibition can be as extensive as we have time and willing hands to make it.

We need to look at documents like censuses, directories, parish registers, the parish magazine, local newspapers, books referring to Yateley, maps and much else. The Society has copies of some of them; others can be found in the Hampshire Record Office or public libraries. As well as finding out the facts, help will be required for actually putting the exhibition together: photography, drawing, typing or printing, enlarging, duplicating, mounting, glueing, and so on.

For those who do not wish to take part in any specific task, there are still things which can be done. Everyone can look out for old photographs, paintings (the ladies used to be keen and often accomplished watercolourists), letters, reminiscences, house deeds and anything else that could throw light on the years around 1878. Descendants of old Yateley families may still have pictures or diaries tucked away, or remember what their grandparents told them about the "olden days".

A meeting to discuss and plan the exhibition was held on 30th November, and we expect to have further meetings for everyone interested about once a month, probably on Mondays.

In between, of course, there are likely to be a great many appeals for, or exchange of, information between individual members. This will be very much a joint project where small items from various sources will fit together like a jigsaw puzzle.

Any offers of information or help to:

Michael Holroyd (Yateley 872439), or
Valerie Kerslake (Yateley 872240) please.

Ed's note:- Pictures, posters, etc are the greatest need; after all an exhibition is essentially visual, and relies on the maxim that "a picture is worth a thousand words" to attract people and keep their attention.

THE 1993 YATELEY SOCIETY DINNER

The general acclaim given to the first Society Dinner has encouraged the Executive Committee to promote a dinner for 1993, it will follow the same pattern as before.

Once again the arrangements are in the capable hands of our Secretary, Carolyn Seymour.

We will probably not have a special guest this time - we shall see.

The Date: Friday February 12th

The Place: The Chef & Brewer/ Chequers, Eversley

The Time: 7:00pm (for 7:30)

The Price: £15-00 per person including:

A 3-course carvery meal with half a bottle of table wine (or soft drinks) and coffee. This avoids the complication of separate meal and wine bills. (Obviously other drinks are up to individuals.)

Payment must be in advance - to further reduce the need for complicated accounting on the night.

Please detach the form below and return it with your cheque (made out to: Chef & Brewer Group Ltd) to Mrs Carolyn Seymour, 7 Wren Close, Yateley, Camberley, Surrey GU17 7NZ. (Tel: 0252-871294) by January 20th at the latest.

Note: Regrettably, refunds cannot be given for cancellations after January 20th.

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To: Mrs C Seymour, 7, Wren Close, Yateley, Camberley, Surrey GU17 7NZ

From: Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Telephone:.....

I/we wish to attend the Yateley Society Dinner on Friday February 12th 1993.

The total number in the party will be:.....

I enclose my cheque for £.....

made out to Chef & Brewer Group Ltd.

(I understand that a refund cannot be given for cancellations after January 20th.)

Signed.....

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THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT OF CONSERVATION

Tony Davis and Mike Mann have had a brainwave!

Instead of the usual monthly Sunday Conservation Working Party there will be a "Seasonal Celebration" on Yateley Common on the Monday after Christmas (28th December), - with free mulled wine and mince pies!

The idea is to have a seasonal get-together, and at the same time to show members something of the conservation work that goes on under the auspices of the Yateley Common Rangers and the Forest of Eversley Trust.

VENUE: The bridleway along the gas pipe route, 50 yards west of Cricket Hill (Map Ref: 818 594).

TIME: 11:00am, 28th December.

The Rangers recommend parking at Wyndhams Pool car park (822 597) - then walking up past Brandy Bottom to the gas pipe bridleway and turning right to Cricket Hill. Cross the road and you will be there.

WALK.

As an extra there will be a short walk on the Common beforehand (it is not compulsory!). It will be led by Tony Hocking, and will start from Wyndhams Pool car park (822 597) at 10:00am. This will be a leisurely stroll around areas where there has already been management of the Common, and will finish at the "Celebration" venue at about 11:00. Wellingtons are recommended!

(This will take the place of a walk intended for Boxing Day.)

Note: Members who would like to do some practical conservation work on the 28th should also meet at Wyndhams Pool at 10:00am - Mike Mann will explain what is planned.

To help this experiment work, and to minimise catering waste, it would be appreciated if, should you plan to attend, you could please call Mike Mann (Yateley 877741) or Tony Hocking (Yateley 875158) by 20th December to give an idea of numbers.

Happy Christmas - and hope to see you on the Common!

Greetings from Tony, Mike and Tony

BOTANICAL ART, PAST AND PRESENT

by Valerie Kerslake

A string of problems beset the start of the long-awaited talk by Christabel King in October, but the large audience sat tight and eventually the lights went out and we were shown two studies from the very first botanical drawings, made nearly 2000 years ago by the Greek, Dioscorides. The plants were named and described in Greek, with annotations in Arabic, but were immediately identifiable as cyclamen and cranesbill. Dioscorides' work was a collection of beautifully observed plant drawings, each with a brief description laid out in a form that has been more or less followed by botanists up to the present day. It was copied and re-copied and translated, and for nearly 1500 years was the standard botanical work. The slides were from copies dated AD 512, the originals having long been lost.

By the 16th century many of these copies had succumbed to stylisation and strayed far from the precise observations of Dioscorides. New herbals with new illustrations appeared and could now be printed instead of having to be copied by hand. Wood engravings drawn from nature about 1530 showed simply and elegantly the form of the plant. Copper engravings with shading followed. All these black and white prints were intended to be hand-coloured for those who desired and paid for it.

Botanical illustration became gradually more skilled and minutely detailed. Parts of the plant began to appear alongside the main picture: seeds and stamens, cross-sections of fruit and buds. Botanical artists were called for more and more as travellers and explorers ventured further afield, with a burst of activity in the late 18th century when plant-hunters were being sent out on expeditions all over the world from Kew and needed to record exactly their often startling finds. By then the best of the artists were producing superb works of art that were also searchingly observed scientific records depicting the most delicate textures and subtlest hues. Indian artists worked at the East India Company Garden in Calcutta under William Roxburgh, who was director between 1793 and 1814. His successor published 300 of their drawings in a magnificent volume of hand-coloured lithographs.

Nearer home, an Alton man, William Curtis, went to live in London and resolved to record every plant within ten miles of the centre of the city. Having accomplished this between 1777 and 1787, he founded "Curtis's Botanical Magazine", the longest running botanical periodical with coloured illustrations, now incorporated into the Kew Magazine. Curtis began with copper engravings; later lithographs were used which, until the 1930, were coloured by hand, a team of painters each applying one colour. Christabel is one of the many Kew artists who have contributed to Curtis's Botanical Magazine.

Christabel, who is one of Kew's most accomplished botanical painters, brought with her a sketch book and two of her lovely finished paintings. She was invited a year or two ago to join an expedition to the Mountains of the Moon in Uganda. One gathered that she accepted with some trepidation, having never been in any way an "outward bound" sort of person, but, she said, the other four members of the expedition took good care of her. The aim was to record all of the region, for fear that land shortages might bring about the destruction of the dense forests on the mountain slopes, and that both the native way of life and the natural habitat be lost for ever. Giant senecio and giant lobelia are among the remarkable plants to be found there, though from the slides we saw it would be hard for a non-specialist to spot many familiar features. We also saw Christabel working in her tent with the sketch book and a flower in a pot of water. Her method was

to draw the plant quickly while it was fresh, and note the correct colours. At first she tried matching the colours from a numbered shade card in the manner of an earlier Kew artist, Francis Bauer, who dotted his drawings with figures to indicate the colours, but Christabel found it a good deal quicker just to mix them in her paint box. For future reference she then pressed the plant, as do all plant collectors. (The Herbarium at Kew is a vast library with more than five million pressed specimens sent from all over the world, some of them over 200 years ago.) Sometimes she dropped a labelled flower into a bottle of preserving fluid, which destroys the colour but keeps the three-dimensional shape. And of course she photographed them. Photography does not compare with a fine drawing for revealing delicate or intricate features but it is useful, particularly, Christabel said, for showing the habit of, say, a tree.

Happily the expedition attracted the attention of the government of Uganda who have now taken steps to protect the Mountains of the Moon. The book of the trip is to be published soon. Those who had a foretaste of its delights during this absorbing talk will be hoping that a copy comes their way.

HAMPSHIRE FLORA

Chris Hall writes that a new Hampshire Flora is due in 1994. The first was published in 1883, with a much revised and enlarged edition in 1904, but apart from a privately published Supplement in 1928 this was the last complete coverage of the Flora of the County, and it is, of course, spectacularly out of date.

YATELEY SOCIETY PROGRAMME 1992/93 (FROM DECEMBER 93)

- December -

Thurs 10 SOCIAL - a simple evening with wine provided - please bring some mince pies, an opportunity for friendly chat! Y.C. Green Room 8:00pm

Thurs 17 REVIEW OF LOCAL PLANNING Y.C. Green Room 8:00pm

N.B. No Sunday Conservation Working Party or Boxing Day walk - but see the activities for Monday 28th below.

Mon 28 A WALK - YATELEY COMMON Conservation Management Areas. Wyndhams Pool 10:00am
A short walk led by Tony Hocking to look at some of the areas under management Car Park
This is timed to end at the seasonal celebration detailed below, at 11:00am. Map Ref 822 597
(Anybody not wishing to stop for the celebration can be guided back to the car park.)

Mon 28 CELEBRATING THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT OF CONSERVATION Yateley Common 11:00am
Mulled wine and mince pies al fresco, with the Rangers. An opportunity to talk On the gas-pipe bridleway
about the conservation work on the Common in a social atmosphere. Map Ref 818 594
50 yds west of Cricket Hill

Mon 28 CONSERVATION. Anyone willing to do some work today please meet at Wyndhams Pool, at 10:00am.

1993 1993 1993 1993

- January -

Thurs 14 TALK - Chaddisbrooke House Restoration Y.C. Green Room 8:00pm
An illustrated talk by Geoff Hoare, the latest on the History Project.

Thurs 28 The AGM Y.C. Green Room 8:00pm
This is your chance to hear what is going on in the Society at first hand,
and to make your views felt! It is your RIGHT to take part. (And to have a glass of wine!)

Sun 31 CONSERVATION ON THE COMMON Wyndhams Pool 10:00am
Our numbers have been growing slowly - but we need more of you!

- February -

Fri 12 SOCIETY ANNUAL DINNER - yes we are trying to make it an annual event.
SEE THE ARTICLE AND BOOKING FORM ON PAGE 3

Thurs 4 TALK - How to Resist a Planning Application. Y.C. Green Room 8:00pm
An account of what to do if you do not like some development or other
activity subject to the planning laws. By Peter Tipton and/or Richard Johnston,
two people with plenty of experience in the matter.

Sun 28 CONSERVATION ON THE COMMON Wyndhams Pool 10:00am

- March -

Thurs 18 TALK - Legal Protection for the Countryside Y.C. Green Room 8:00pm
By Barry Peachy. (Yet to be confirmed)

Sun 28 CONSERVATION ON THE COMMON Wyndhams Pool 10:00am

- April -

Sun 18 FRITILLIARY WALK Venue TBA
There are fields full of these delightful flowers - if you know where to look,
To be led by Edward Dawson

Thurs 22 TALK - Enclosure of Commons. Y.C. Green Room 8:00pm
The history of the gradual shrinking of common land, by both legal and less
legal processes, very relevant to Yateley. By Michael Holroyd.

Sun 28 CONSERVATION ON THE COMMON Wyndhams Pool 10:00am

COPY DATES: STOP PRESS - 4TH JANUARY, NEWSLETTER - 28TH FEBRUARY